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I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION, NEPHEW BERSERKO, AN' SOMETIMES I FEEL GOOD, SOMETIMES BAD.
PROFITS ARE ASTRONOMICOUS, BUT THEY COULD ALWAYS BE BETTER-- SO EITHER WAY I'M FEELIN', I COME TO DA SAME DECISION TIME AFTER TIME...
DIS GANG NEEDS TO EXPAND!
GEE, UNCLE BIG BOSS... YA THINK--?
1 PM: MEET BIG BOSS
2 PM: TINKER IN LAB
4 PM: LECTURE AT INVENTOR'S CLUB
6 PM: DINNER W/ GUILLERMO
I HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE AND IT IS INFLATED.
DOO-DA-DOODLE-OODLE-DOO... HEE HEE HEE... THIS DOODLE IS SHAPING UP AS A PRIZE CHUNK OF TROUBLE...
DOUG MOENCH writer
PAT BRODERICK & MARCOS/ PATTERSON artists
JOHN COSTANZA letterer
HELEN VESIK colorist
KEVIN DOOLEY asst editor
ANDREW HELFER editor

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STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM TO YOU, DEAR NEPHEW, SOME OF US DO THINK.
NOW I WANT YA TA GO ROUND UP A BUNCH O' SUITABLE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR PERSONNEL INTERVIEWS HERE IN MY OFFICE...
...DIS ROUNDUP, HOWEVER, SHOULD INCLUDE NO PENNY-ANTE PUNKS, NO CHEAP CHISELERS, AN' DEFINITELY NONE O' YOUR FRIENDS, BERSERKO...
HAIRY KNUCKLES? NAY...WHY SPOIL THE CLEAN LINES?
BUT WHAT I MOST EMPHATICALLY DO NOT WANT ARE ANY GOOFY GARGOYLES, GAWKY GAWKS, GEEKY GOOKS, OR JALLBO JAMOKES.
IN SHORT, BERSERKO, I DO NOT WANT ANY MORE SLABS O' BRAINLESS BEEF LIKE YOU.
WHAT I DO WANT ARE A FEW BURLY BOYS WHO CAN TAKE ANY ORDER AN' CARRY IT OUT -- WITHOUT A PEEP O' PROTEST OR STUPIDITY ON EITHER END.
EH--?
IN SHORT, WHAT I WANT ARE GRADE-A PRIME-SPECIMEN PERFECT THUGS.
BINGO!
2

ALL RIGHT, UNCLE BOSS-- I'LL BOOK FOR THE UNDERWORLD AND START RAGGING.
GOOD.
NOW WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO REPORT, BADVIBES, YOU FREAKY, SCRAWNY, LITTLE--
NEVER MIND, BIG BOSS!
INASMUCH AS ALL PRIOR CONSIDERATIONS HAVE JUST BEEN BLITZED BY A BEAUTY OF A BRAINSTORM-- I THINK I'LL RUN ALONG NOW!
HUH? 'SCUSE ME, DOC.
SHEESH... LEMME TELL YA, SCRATCH...
WITH CRONIES LIKE DEM MINDIN' DA STORE, IT'S A WONDER I'M STILL IN BUSINESS AS DA CRIME-LORD O' EMPIRE CITY AN' ENVIRONS.
THE NEXT DAY:
ALL RIGHT, BERSERKO, SEND IN DA FIRST CANDYDATE...
THIS IS MURPHY THE SQUARE, UNCLE ...BOSS...
...I ROUND HIM ON THE SOUTH SIDE IN A NIFTY JOINT CALLED--
WHAT'S DA MATTER WITH YOU, BERSERKO?! WHAT IS DIS?!
DIDN'T I SAY NO GOOFY GAZOONEYS--?!
BUT MURPHY AIN'T--
THAT'S A GOOFY GAZOONEY IF I EVER SAW ONE, OUT!
O-OKAY, UNC...
3

MEANWHILE:
NOW, MISS SHIELDS, SINCE WE'LL BE CLOSED FOR THE LONG WEEKEND--
Jewelry Store
--I'VE PLACED ALL OUR MOST VALUABLE PIECES INSIDE THIS STRONGBOX, AND WHEN YOU LEAVE WORK I WANT YOU TO TAKE IT STRAIGHT TO--
YEEEEEE!!
BRUNCHT
NABB
THE S-S-S-STRONGBOX! HE-HE JUST N-NABBED THE S-STRONGBOX!
THAKRATCHT
4

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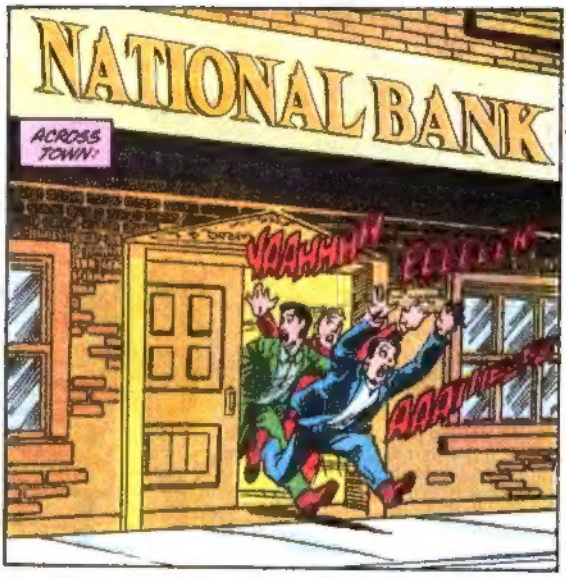
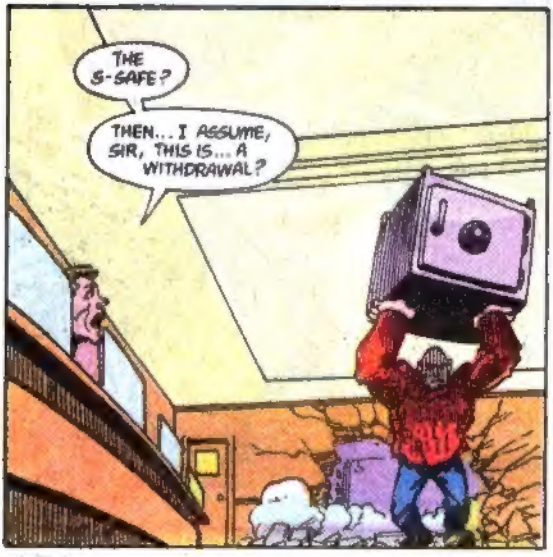
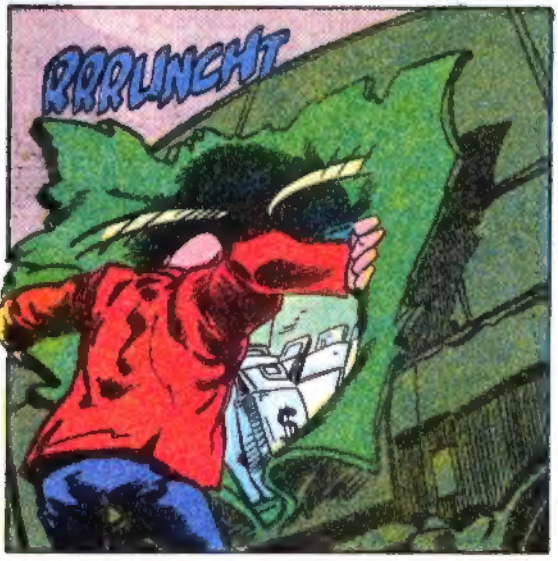
FULLY GUARANTEED

I ALSO SAID NO GAWKY GINKS!! DAT IS A GAWKY GINK!
O-OKAY, UNC-- DON'T BUST A VEIN!

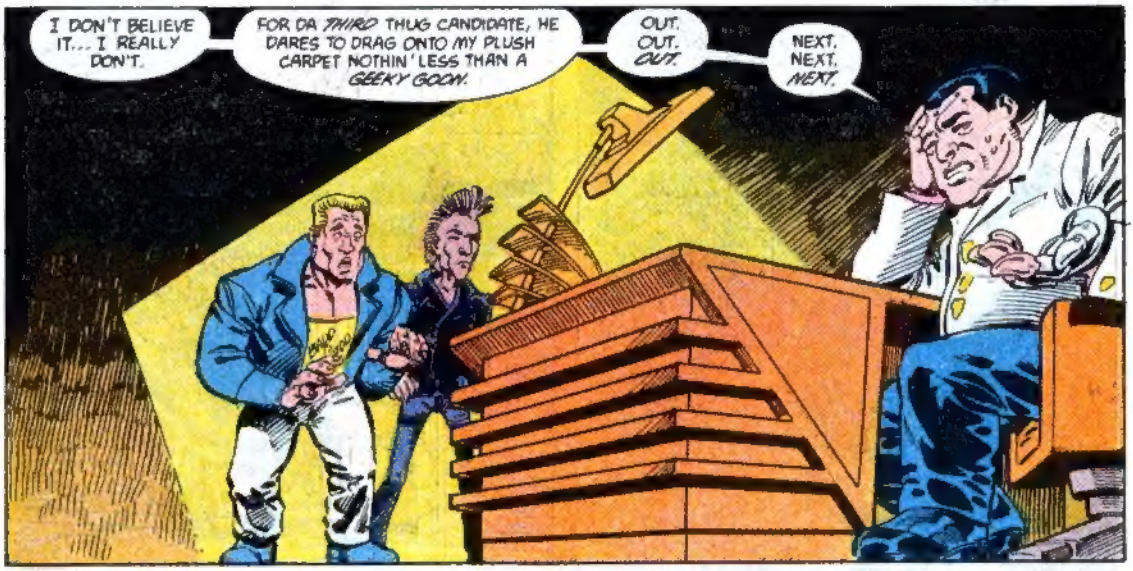

NATIONAL BANK
ACROSS TOWN:
YOAHHHH!
AAA!


THE S-SAFE?
THEN... I ASSUME, SIR, THIS IS... A WITHDRAWAL?

WHILE, AT THE EXACT SAME MOMENT, THREE MILES AWAY:
HEY!
SPOOTCH


KARUNCHT

YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO MY ARMORED TRUCK!
YOU CAN'T...
YOU CAN'T!
BRAM
BRAM
BRAM
BRAM

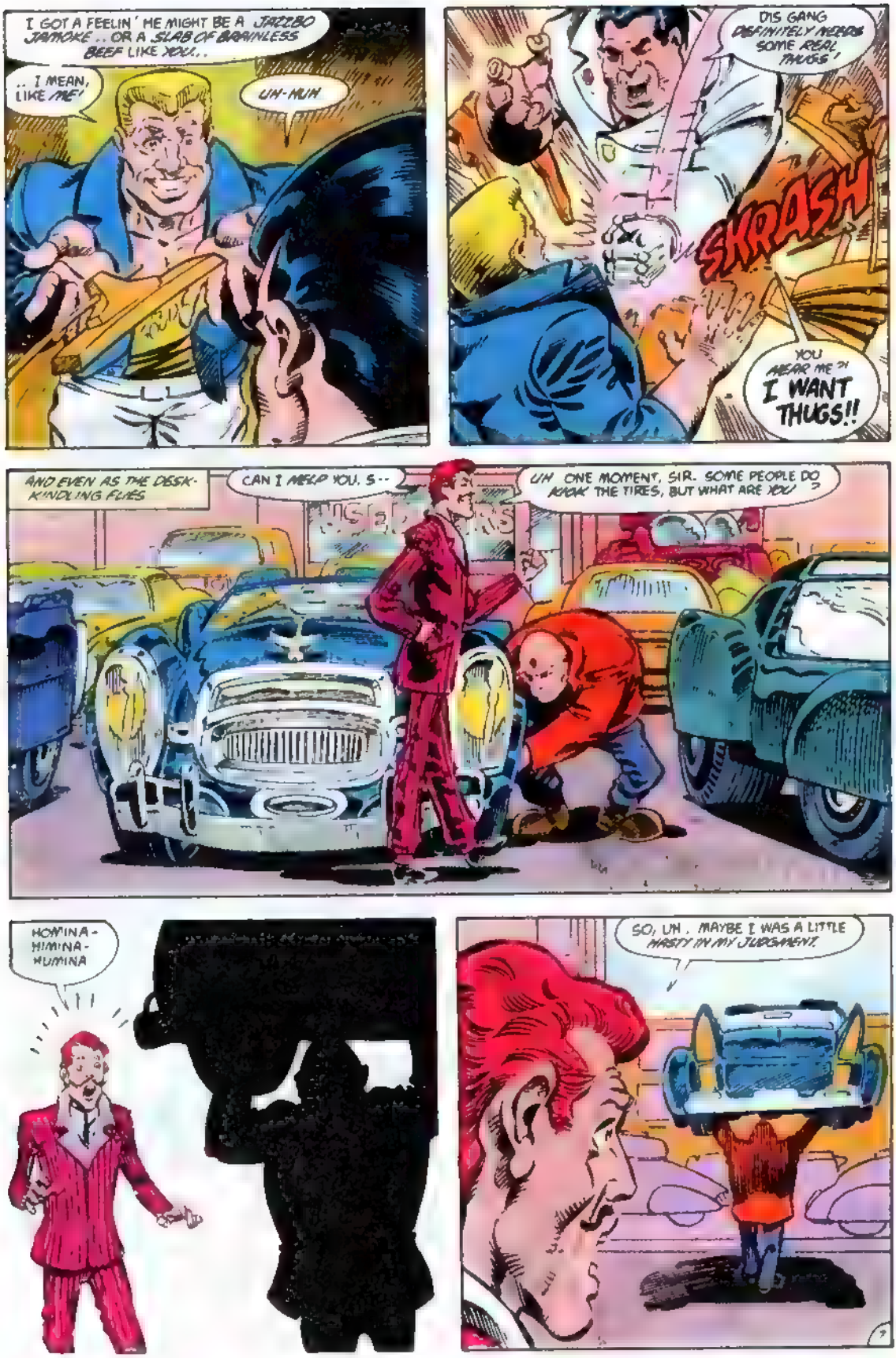

I DON'T BELIEVE IT... I REALLY DON'T.
FOR DA *THIRD* THUG CANDIDATE, HE DARES TO DRAG ONTO MY PLUSH CARPET NOTHIN' LESS THAN A *GEEKY GOON!*
OUT. OUT. *OUT.*
NEXT. NEXT. *NEXT.*

WHILE IN THE PARK:

PRUTCH
HMPH.

SHOCKINGLY LOOSE SOIL IN THIS AREA OF THE PARK, DARLINGKINS-- DON'T YOU THINK WE WON'T *REPORT* THIS TO THE *PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT?*

UH... I DON'T THINK I SHOULD BOTHER SHOWIN' YOU THE *LAST* GUY I DUG UP, UNC.
AND, PRAY TELL, DEAR NEPHEW BERSERKO... *WHY NOT?*
WELL, UNCLE BOSS...
6


I GOT A FEELIN' HE MIGHT BE A JAZZBO JAMOKE .. OR A SLAB OF BRAINLESS BEEF LIKE YOU! ..
.. I MEAN, LIKE ME!
UH-HUH
DIS GANG DEFINITELY NEEDS SOME REAL THUGS!
SKRASH
YOU HEAR ME?! I WANT THUGS!!
AND EVEN AS THE DESK-KINDLING FLIES
CAN I HELP YOU, S--
UH ONE MOMENT, SIR. SOME PEOPLE DO KICK THE TIRES, BUT WHAT ARE YOU?
HOW'INA-HIMINA-HUMINA
SO, UH, MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE HASTY IN MY JUDGMENT.

THE SCATTERED AFTERMATH:
HE WAS BUILT LIKE A NEANDERTHAL MAN AFTER FIVE YEARS OF INTENSIVE WEIGHT-TRAINING...
...BALD BULLET-HEAD WITH TWO SCARS ON HIS SQUASHED-IN FACE...
SKULL TATTOOED ON HIS FOREHEAD.
...HUGE LEGS, TINY WAIST, MONSTROUS ARMS AND SHOULDERS HANDS LIKE CATCHER'S MITTS...
...KNOBBY SHOES, ANKLE-CINCHED TROUSERS, AND A DOUBLE-BREASTED JACKET WITH ONLY ONE BREAST OF BUTTONS
IN SHORT, A REAL THUG
NOW DIS IS MORE LIKE IT, BERSERKO-- A GREAT BIG BURLY BOY JUST LIKE I ORDERED
HUH? BUT UNC, I DIDN'T--
YOU, CAN YOU CARRY OUT ORDERS WITHOUT A PEEP O' PROTEST OR STUPIDITY?
8

TAKE NO PRISONERS.

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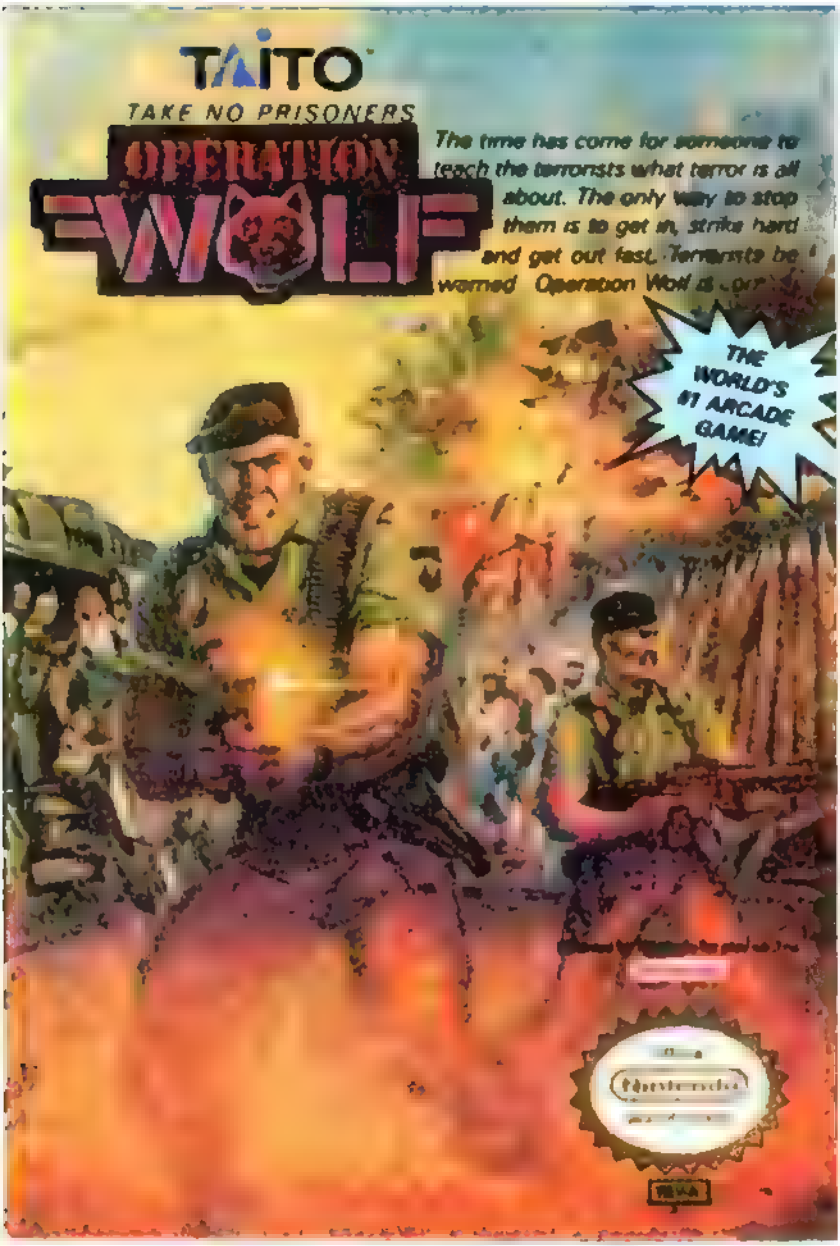
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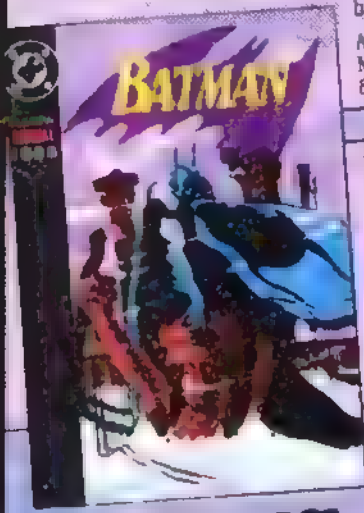

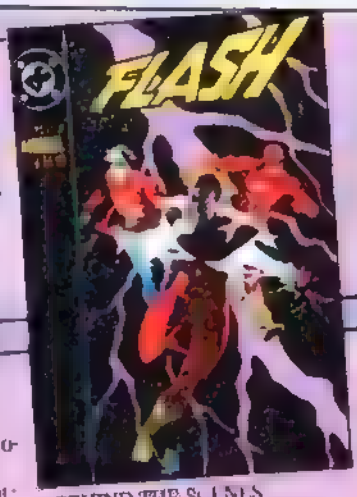

FLASH ANNUAL #3
Wally's JUSTICE LEAGUE boom tube arrives. But his Mom gets a hold of it first and finds a new way to shop. A 64 page book featuring a BEHIND THE SCENES visit by Wally and Chunk to the JLI headquarters and revised WHO'S WHO pages. Cover by Steve Lightle

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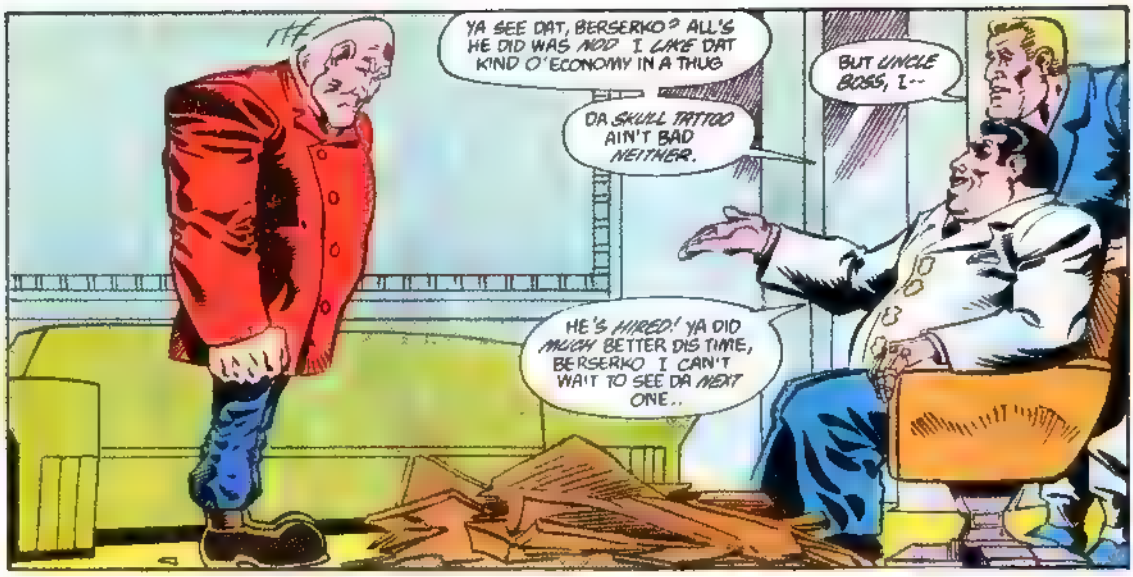
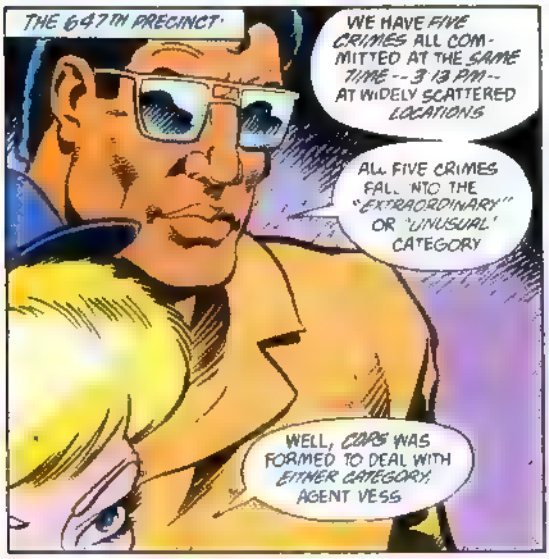
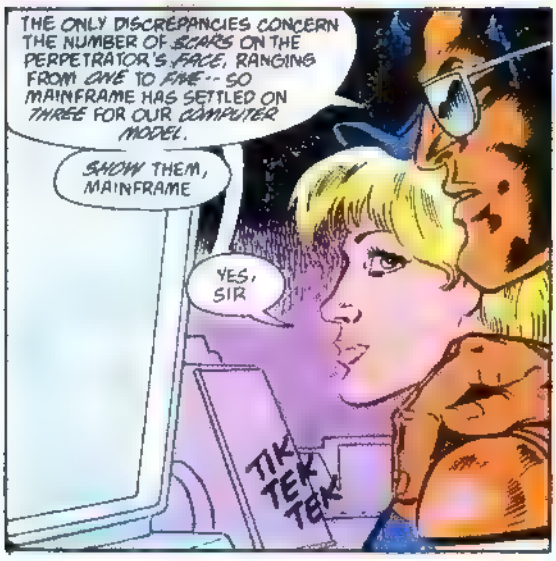

YA SEE DAT, BERSERKO? ALL'S HE DID WAS NOD I LIKE DAT KIND O' ECONOMY IN A THUG
DA SKULL TATTOO AIN'T BAD NEITHER.
BUT UNCLE BOSS, I--
HE'S HIRED! YA DID MUCH BETTER DIS TIME, BERSERKO I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE DA NEXT ONE..


THE 647TH PRECINCT·
WE HAVE FIVE CRIMES ALL COMMITTED AT THE SAME TIME--3:13 PM--AT WIDELY SCATTERED LOCATIONS
ALL FIVE CRIMES FALL INTO THE "EXTRAORDINARY" OR "UNUSUAL" CATEGORY
WELL, CARS WAS FORMED TO DEAL WITH EITHER CATEGORY, AGENT VESS

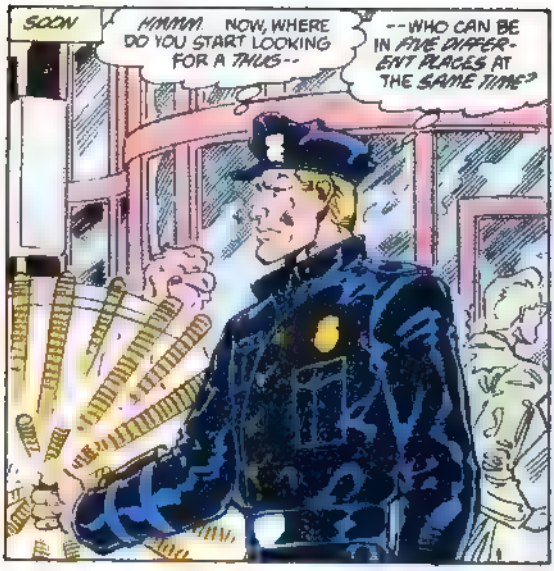
THESE CRIMES ARE BOTH MAINFRAME, PARTICULARLY SINCE FIVE SEPARATE EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS ARE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL
WHAT? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!


THE ONLY DISCREPANCIES CONCERN THE NUMBER OF SCARS ON THE PERPETRATOR'S FACE, RANGING FROM ONE TO FIVE--SO MAINFRAME HAS SETTLED ON THREE FOR OUR COMPUTER MODEL.
SHOW THEM, MAINFRAME
YES, SIR
TIK TEK TEK

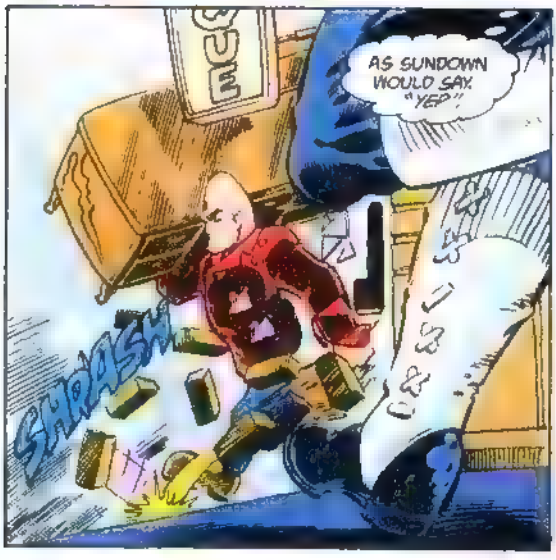
HNH--A REAL PIECE OF WORK
AYEP. THAT BOY IS A DOG-GONE REAL THUG

HUH--? WHAT AS DIS? I JUST SENT YOU OUTTA HERE -- ALREADY SAID YOU WERE HIRED --
BUT UNCLE BOSS --
-- AN' HOW'D YOU GET ANUDDER SCAR?
SURPRISE, SURPRISE, BIG BOSS!
I TOLD YOU I HAD A BRAINSTORM -- AND YOUR SEARCH FOR REAL T.H.U.G.S. IS OVER!
HUH--?
I TRIED TO TELL YA THEY WEREN'T DUG UP BY ME, UNCLE BOSS!
FIVE O' DESE GUYS?! WHAT AM I -- SEEIN' FIFTLE OR WHAT?!
AND JUST TO PROVE HOW BAD THESE THUGS ARE..
HERE'S THE LOOT FROM THEIR FIRST JOBS -- MINUS THE STOLEN CAR PARKED DOWNSTAIRS, BIG BOSS, NOT TO MENTION A LOVELY SHADE-TREE FOR YOUR SUMMER RETREAT!
QUINTUPLETS -- FROM A GENETIC GOLDMINE MOLD LIKE DIS?!
HAW HAW HAW -- DIS IS TOO RICH TO BE TRUE!
IT'S NOT TRUE, BIG BOSS, INASMUCH AS THEY ARE NOT QUINTUPLETS..
10

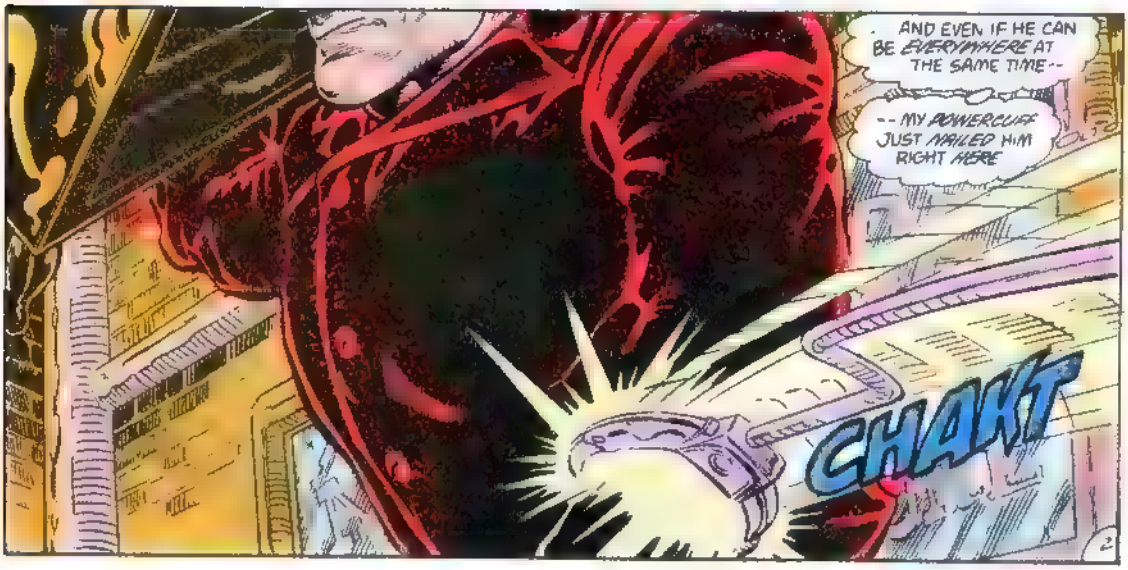
DEY AIN'T?
NOPE! IN FACT, THEY'RE NOT EVEN HUMAN! THEY ARE ROBOTS OF MY OWN INGENIOUS DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE!
I CALL THEM THUGS -- THE TITANIUM HUMANOID UGLY GOON SQUAD!
I LIKE IT, BADVIBES, I LIKE IT! AN YA KNOW WHAT DA BEST THING ABOUT DESE THUGS IS...?
WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY IF THEY GET CAUGHT AND SENT TO PRISON--?
BETTER DAN DAT. I DON'T HAVE TO PAY 'EM!
UH. WE WILL NEED A MAINTENANCE CENTER.
IF YOU MEAN A FRONT, I GOT JUST THE JOINT
IN THAT CASE, BIG BOSS, SHALL WE SEND THEM OUT ON THEIR SECOND JOBS?
BY ALL MEANS, BADVIBES -- I'M ALWAYS OPEN TO DA GUSH O' NEW LOOT!
BUT AGENT VESS, HOW COULD THE SAME PERPETRATOR BE IN FIVE DIFFERENT PLACES AT THE SAME TIME?
THAT, OFFICER LONGARM, IS WHAT YOU WILL NOW HIT THE STREETS TO FIND OUT
ALL FIVE OF YOU -- NOW!
YEAH -- EXCEPT WE'RE SIX, COUNTING BLITZ
ROWF!


SOON
HMMM. NOW, WHERE DO YOU START LOOKING FOR A THUG--
--WHO CAN BE IN FIVE DIFFERENT PLACES AT THE SAME TIME?

HELP! STOP, THIEF!!
EH? RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER--?!


AS SUNDOWN WOULD SAY, "YEP."
SMASH

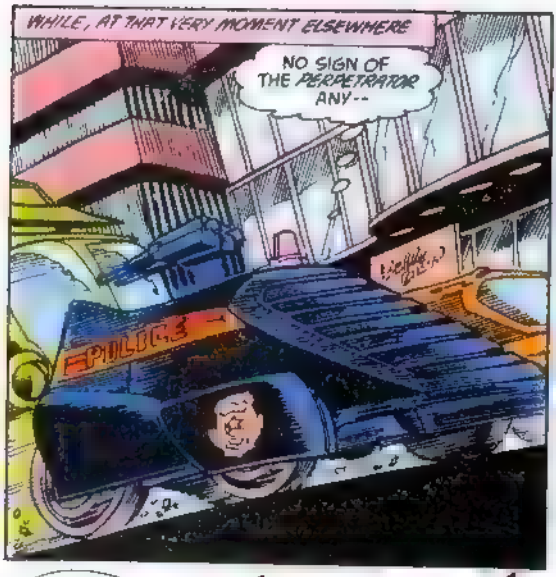
.. IT'S THE THUGS, ALL RIGHT ..
CHAK!

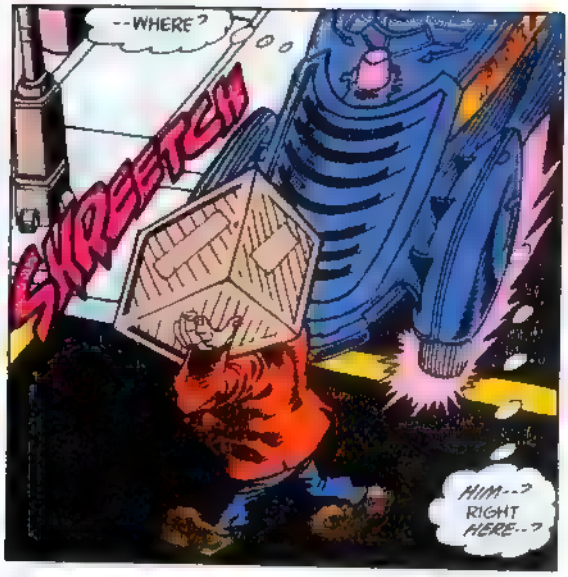

. AND EVEN IF HE CAN BE EVERYWHERE AT THE SAME TIME--
--MY POWERCUFF JUST NAILED HIM RIGHT HERE
CHAK!

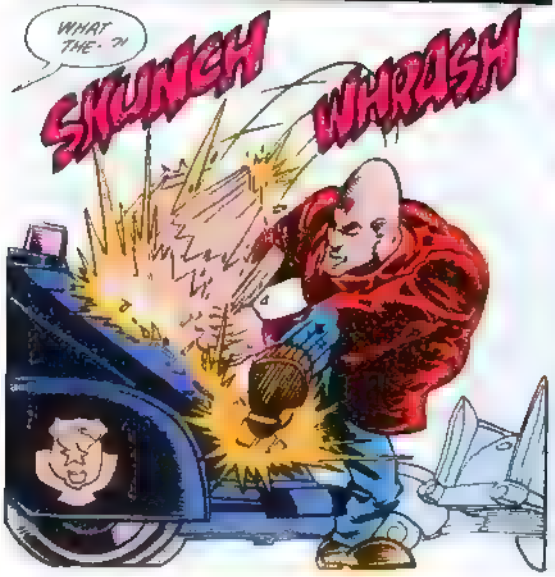
NNNGHHH!
TWUNGG
OOPS
MY POWERCUFF--
HE BIT RIGHT THROUGH THE CABLE?!
K-RAKNNKT
AND NOW HE'S FLEEING.
STOP, THIEF!!
LONGARM SURGES UP IN PURSUIT.

MEANWHILE, IN THAT AREA OF THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT SPECIALIZING IN RUBS
WHUT IN TARNATION--? A HOLE IN THET WAREHOUSE WALL..?
BRAHOOM!
YAHH--!
BUHOOOF
DADBLARN' MAKE THET TWO HOLES IN THE WAREHOUSE WALL..
..BUT WH-WHUT IN TARNATION DID I JEST SLAM INTO..?
THET THUG! DOGGONE IF N IT AIN'T JEST THE VERY THUG I M LOOKIN FOR!
HALT, VARMINT!!
BUT THE TITANIUM HUMANOID UGLY GOON KEEPS RIGHT ON SHAMBLING. AND FURIES AS SUNDOWN SCRAMBLES AFTER HIM

ACROSS TOWN!
GOOD BOY, BLITZ! ONCE YOU GOT HIS SCENT FROM THAT JEWELRY SHOP--
COINS
--I KNEW YOU COULD TRACK HIM DOWN.
KEEESH
FREEZE! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
FWAK!
UNH!
ROWF!
DON'T SHOOT, BLITZ - TOO MANY INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO RUN HIM TO GROUND!
FWAK!
15

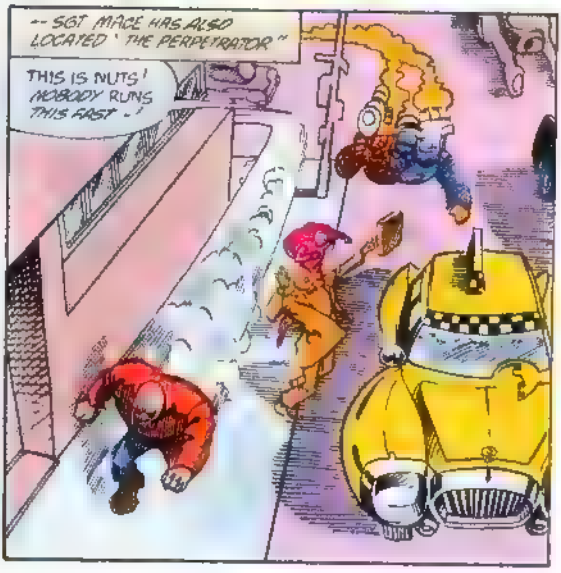

WHILE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT ELSEWHERE
NO SIGN OF THE PERPETRATOR ANY--


--WHERE?
SKREETCH
HIM--? RIGHT HERE--?


WHAT THE--?!
SKUNCH
WHRUSH

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS GUY THINKS HE IS--
--BUT SINCE HE S DISABLED THE FRONT END OF MY ARMORED ASSAULT VEHICLE--

-- THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
AND EVEN AS HARDTOD PURSUES -


-- SGT MACE HAS ALSO LOCATED THE PERPETRATOR"
THIS IS NUTS! NOBODY RUNS THIS FAST--!

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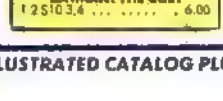

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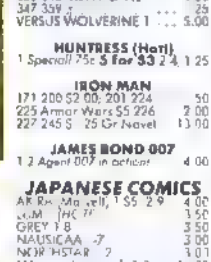

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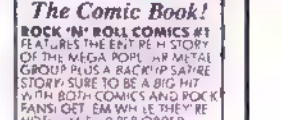

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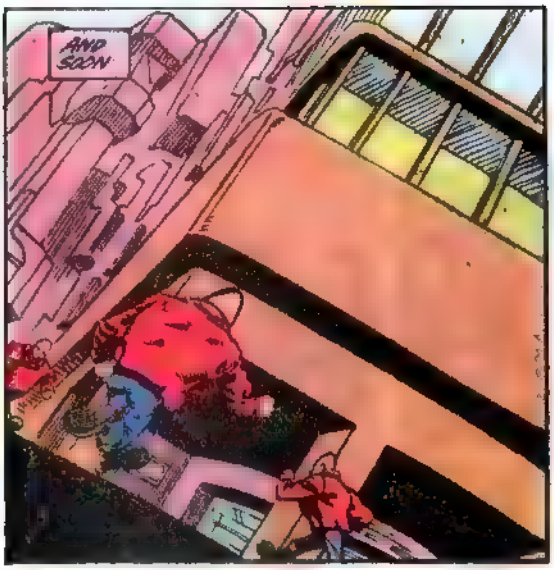
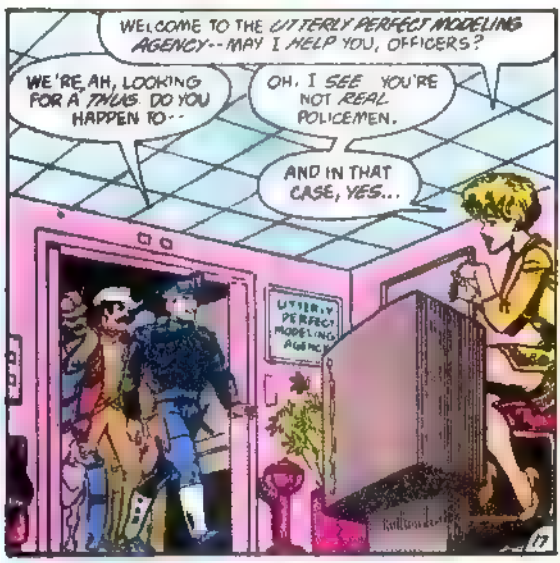

AND SOON

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
I'M TAILING THE THUG-- WHAT ARE THE REST OF YOU DOING HERE?
I'M A-TAILIN' THE DADBLASTED THUG TOO!
DITTO FOR BLITZ AND ME!

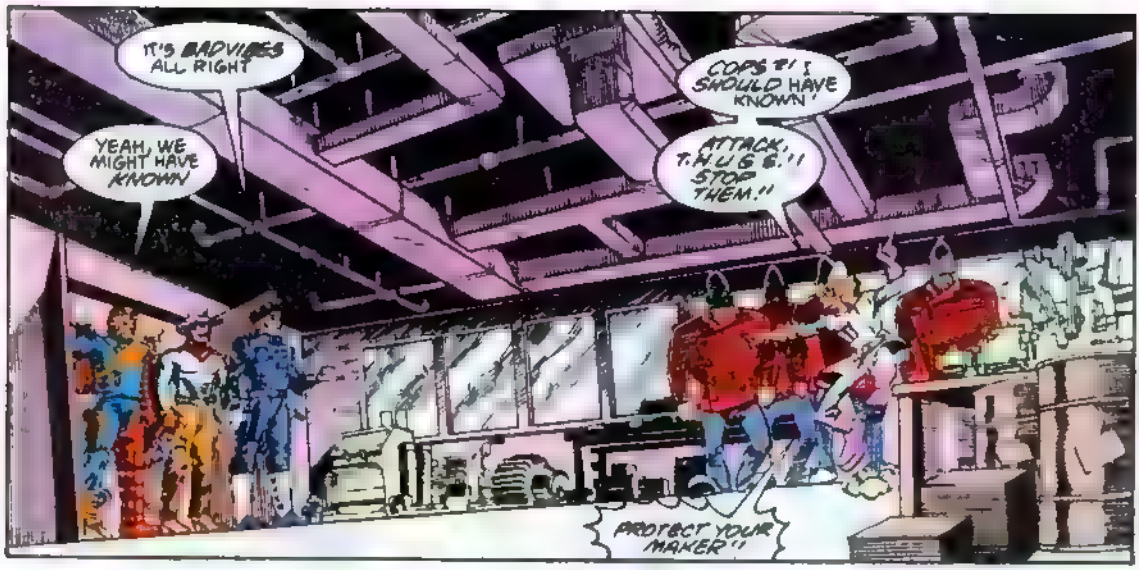
DOGGONE! THEN WHY DON'T WE ALL TAIL THE THUG TOGETHER?
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, SUNDOWN.
YEAH, I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THAT BROWNY BRUISER.
DITTO AGAIN.
LET'S DO IT.
ROWR!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF DASHING IN HERE EMPTY-HANDED?
WELL, ANSWER ME--!

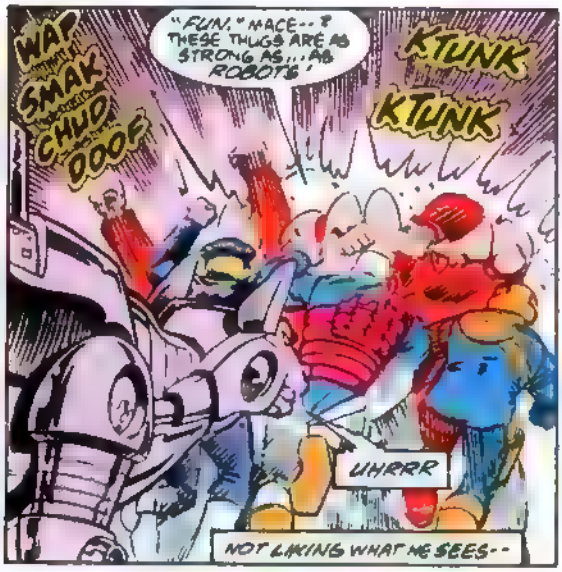
OOPS, THAT'S RIGHT-- I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET THEM ON THE STREET THAT I NEGLECTED TO INSTALL VOCAL CORDS.
HOW HOW WILL I LEARN WHAT'S GOING ON--?
MAYBE I'LL NEVER KNOW.

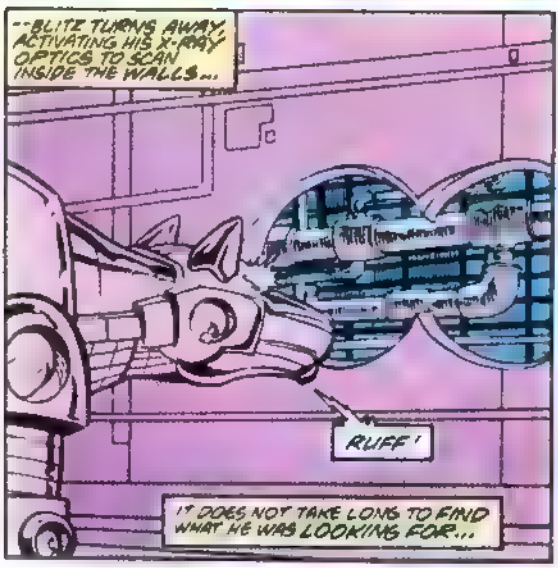

WELCOME TO THE UTTERLY PERFECT MODELING AGENCY-- MAY I HELP YOU, OFFICERS?
WE'RE, AH, LOOKING FOR A THUG. DO YOU HAPPEN TO--
OH. I SEE. YOU'RE NOT REAL POLICEMEN.
AND IN THAT CASE, YES...
UTTERLY PERFECT MODELING AGENCY

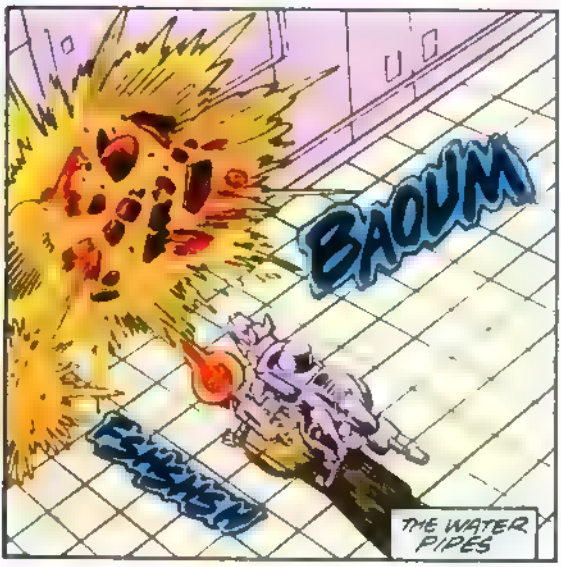
WE HAVE A VERY GOOD T.H.U.G. MODEL..
WAIT A MINUTE.
YOU MEAN .. MODEL AS IN ROBOT?
OH, YES, ALL OUR MODELS ARE ROBOTS, AND AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE ONLY HAVE T.H.U.G.S.
THEY'RE MORE REALISTIC THAN ROBOTS, IN A STEREOTYPED SENSE.
ROBOTS! DANG!
UHRRRR
EASY, BLITZ--NO REFLECTION ON YOU, BOY
THIS CLEARS UP A LOT
THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM--AND THEY'RE NOT REAL THUGS
THEY'RE FAKE THUGS
AYEP--MAKIN' 'EM EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN RATTLESNAKES
I THINK WE'D BETTER SEE THESE THUG MODELS.
I'M AFRAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE AT THE MOMENT, SINCE ALL FIVE ARE BACK IN THE MAINTENANCE LAB WITH OUR NEW DESIGNER-/INVENTOR
BADVIBES--GOT TO BE
I RECKON.
YOUR NEW DESIGNER-INVENTOR WOULDN'T WEAR WACKY GLASSES AND HAVE A SEE-THROUGH HEAD?
WHY YES, BUT--
NEVER MIND -WE'LL JUST GO TAKE A LOOK AT ALL SIX OF THEM.
YEAH--FIVE ROBOTS PLUS ONE FREAK
WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO BACK THERE!
WE CAN IF WE ARE REAL POLICEMEN--AND BELIEVE ME, WE'RE NO MODELS
ROWF!
18

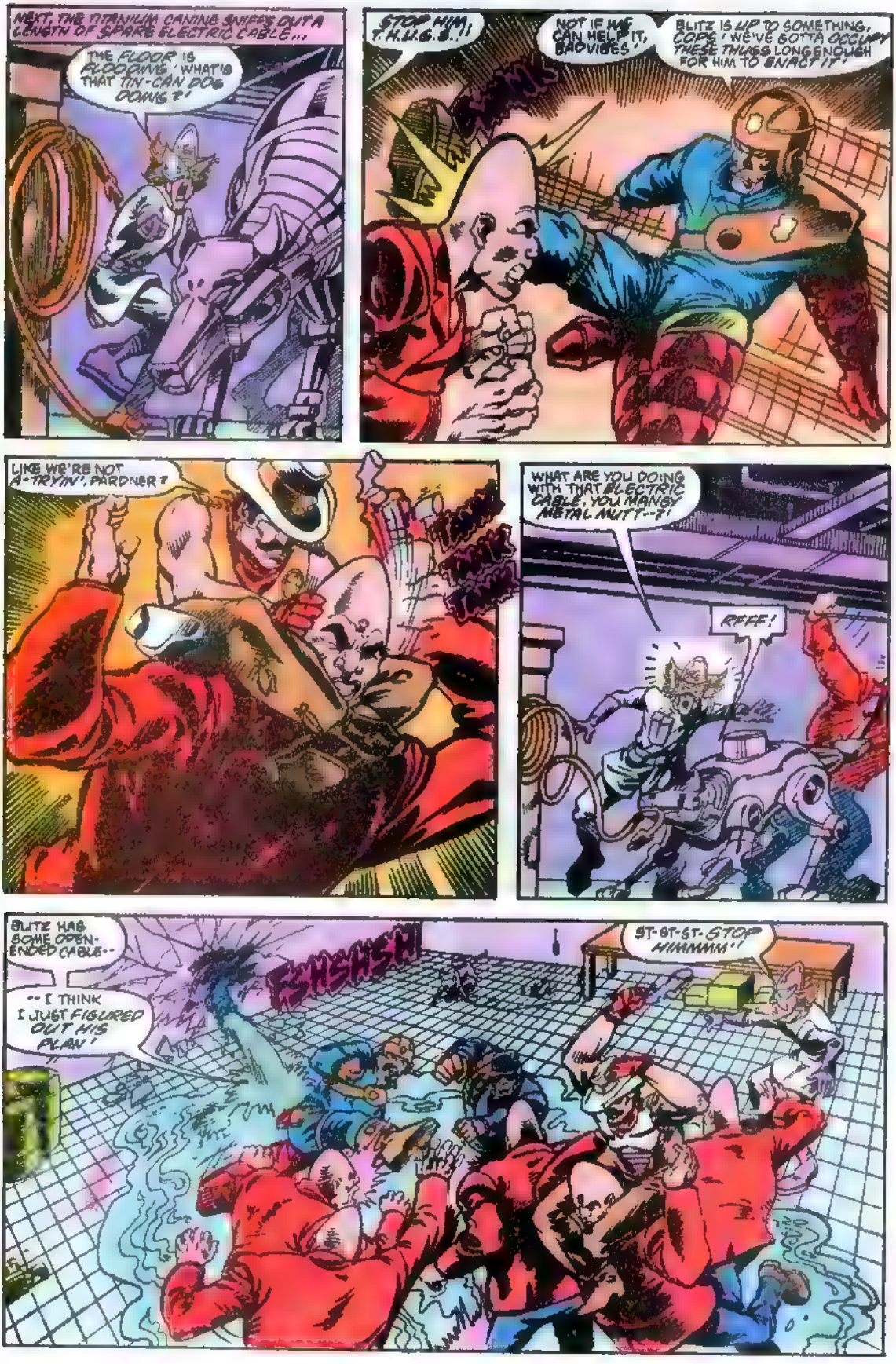

IT'S BADVIBES ALL RIGHT
YEAH, WE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN
COPS?! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
ATTACK, T.H.U.G.!! STOP THEM!!
PROTECT YOUR MAKER!!

WELP...HERE THEY COME
...IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT DOWN TO THE FUN PART


WAP
SMAK
CHUD
DOOF
"FUN." MACE--THESE THUGS ARE AS STRONG AS...AS ROBOTS!
KTUNK
KTUNK
UHRRR
NOT LIKING WHAT HE SEES--


--BLITZ TURNS AWAY, ACTIVATING HIS X-RAY OPTICS TO SCAN INSIDE THE WALLS...
RUFF!
IT DOES NOT TAKE LONG TO FIND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR...


BAOUM
FSHSHSH
THE WATER PIPES


NEXT, THE TITANIUM CANINE SNIFFS OUT A LENGTH OF SPARE ELECTRIC CABLE...
THE FLOOR IS FLOODING! WHAT'S THAT TIN-CAN DOG DOING?!
STOP HIM, T.H.U.G.S.!!
NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT, BADDIES!
BLITZ IS UP TO SOMETHING, COPS! WE'VE GOTTA OCCUPY THESE THUGS LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO ENACT IT!
LIKE WE'RE NOT A-TRYIN', PARDNER?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT ELECTRIC CABLE, YOU MANGY METAL MUTT--?!
RRFF!
BLITZ HAS SOME OPEN-ENDED CABLE--
-- I THINK I JUST FIGURED OUT HIS PLAN!
FSHSHSH
ST-ST-ST-STOP HIMMMM!!

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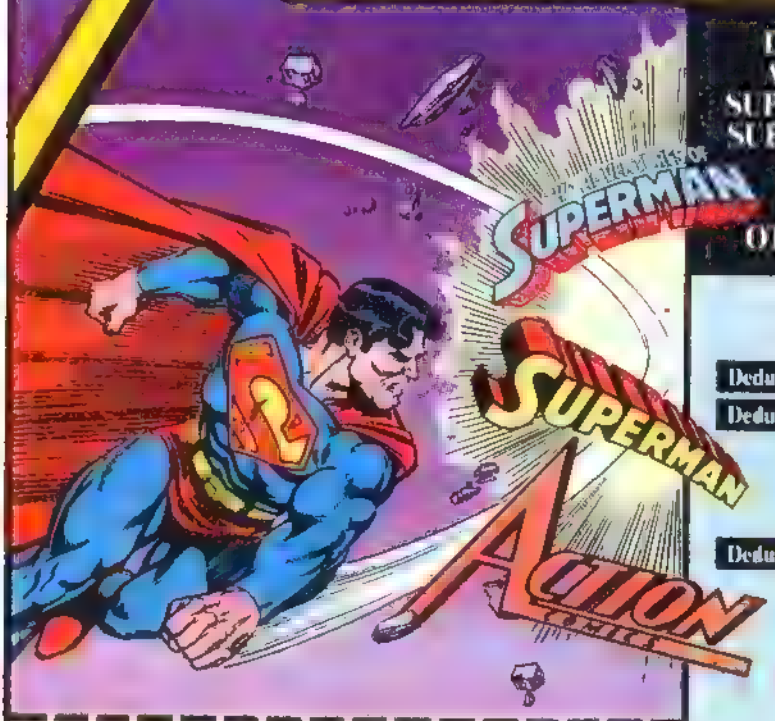

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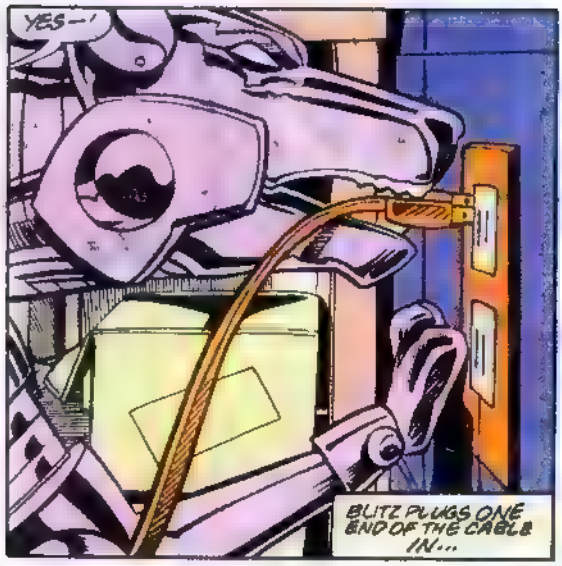
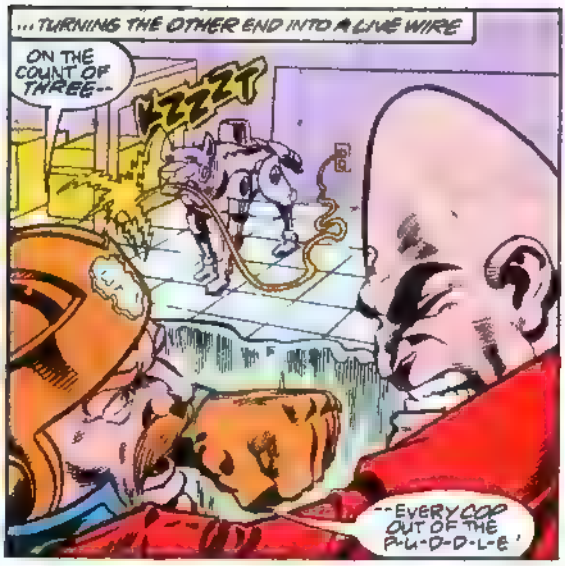
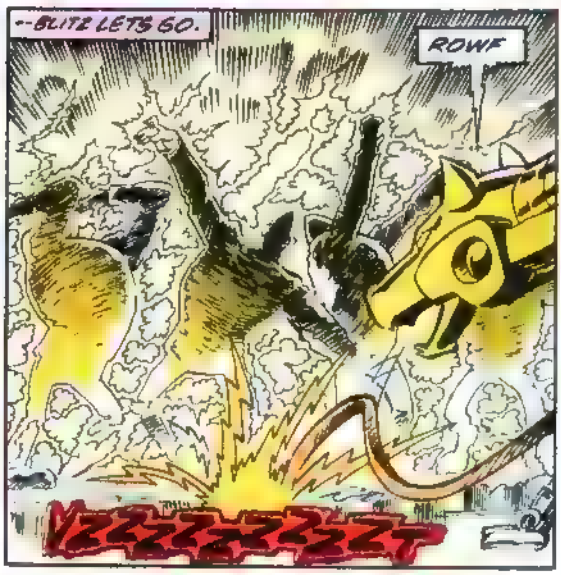
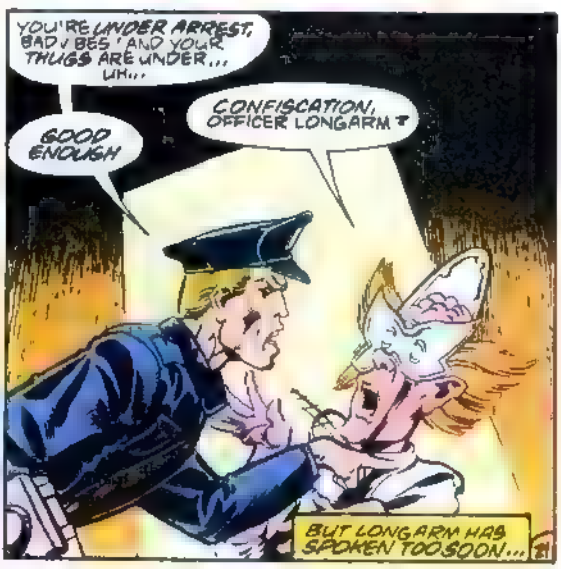

YES--!
BLITZ PLUGS ONE END OF THE CABLE IN...

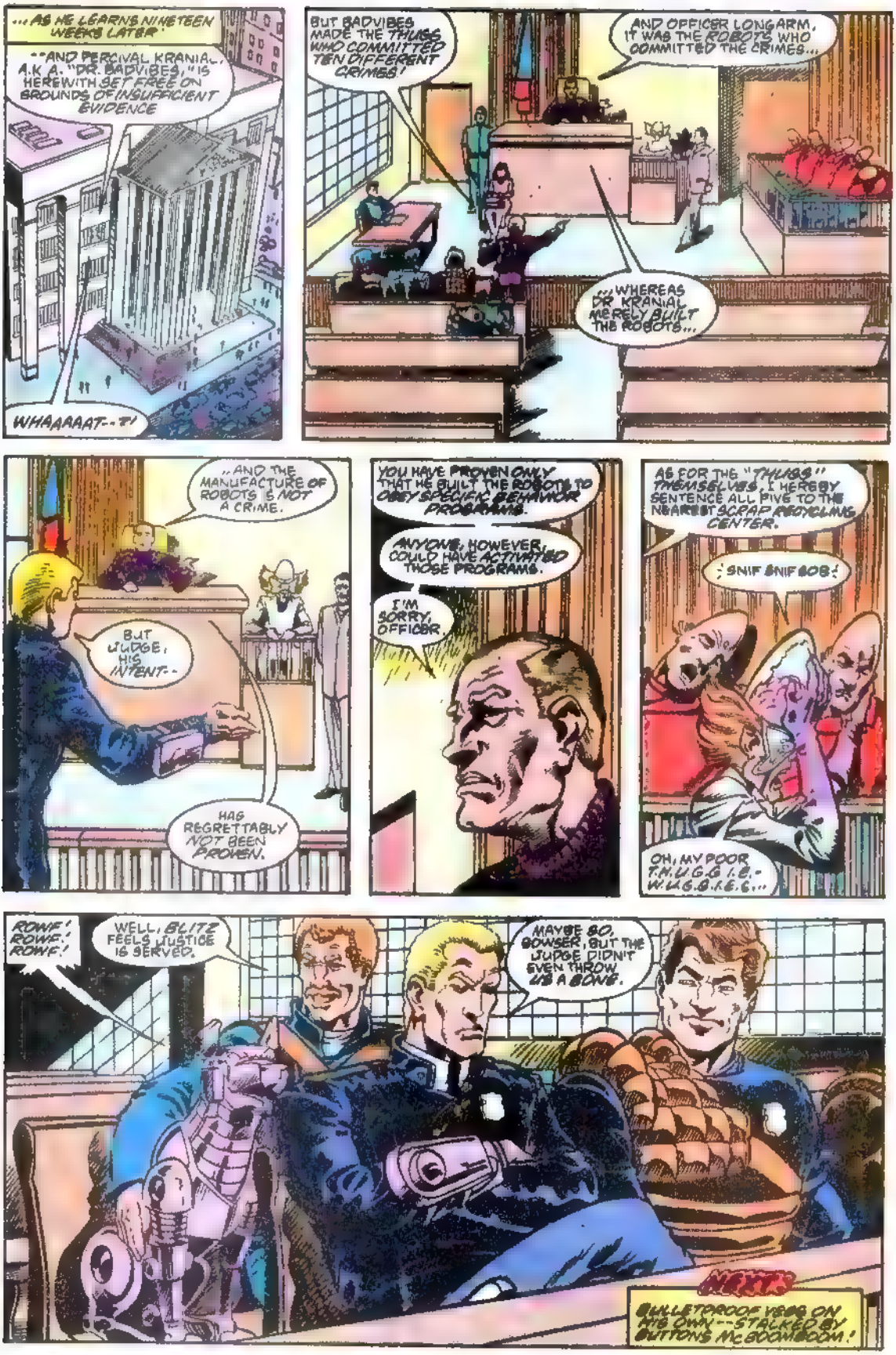

...TURNING THE OTHER END INTO A LIVE WIRE
ON THE COUNT OF THREE--
-ZZZT
--EVERY COP OUT OF THE P-U-D-D-L-E!

ONE...
...TWO...
...THREE!
AND WHEN EVERYTHING ALIVE HAS CLEARED THE WATER--
ZZZT


--BLITZ LETS GO.
ROWF
ZZZZZZZZT

MY T.H.U.G.S.!! YOU WICKED BEAST--!
YOU'RE FRYING THEIR ELECTRIC CIRCUITS!!
ALL RIGHT, BLITZ--UNPLUG IT, BOY.


YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, BAD ' BES ' AND YOUR THUGS ARE UNDER... UH...
GOOD ENOUGH
CONFISCATION, OFFICER LONGARM?
BUT LONGARM HAS SPOKEN TOO SOON...


...AS HE LEARNS NINETEEN WEEKS LATER
"AND PERCIVAL KRANIAL, A.K.A. "DR. BADVIBES," IS HEREWITH SET FREE ON GROUNDS OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE
WHAAAAAT--?!
BUT BADVIBES MADE THE THUGS WHO COMMITTED TEN DIFFERENT CRIMES!
AND OFFICER LONGARM, IT WAS THE ROBOTS WHO COMMITTED THE CRIMES...
...WHEREAS DR KRANIAL MERELY BUILT THE ROBOTS...
"...AND THE MANUFACTURE OF ROBOTS IS NOT A CRIME.
BUT JUDGE, HIS INTENT--
HAS REGRETTABLY NOT BEEN PROVEN.
YOU HAVE PROVEN ONLY THAT HE BUILT THE ROBOTS TO OBEY SPECIAL BEHAVIOR PROGRAMS.
ANYONE, HOWEVER, COULD HAVE ACTIVATED THOSE PROGRAMS.
I'M SORRY, OFFICER.
AS FOR THE "THUGS" THEMSELVES, I HEREBY SENTENCE ALL FIVE TO THE NEAREST SCRAP RECYCLING CENTER.
SNIF SNIF SOB!
OH, MY POOR T.H.U.G.G.I.E.-W.U.G.B.I.E.S...
ROWF! ROWF! ROWF!
WELL, BLITZ FEELS JUSTICE IS SERVED.
MAYBE SO, BOWSER, BUT THE JUDGE DIDN'T EVEN THROW US A BONE.
NEXT:
BULLETPROOF VEST ON THE OWN--STALKED BY BUTTONS McDOOMDOOM!

DC COMICS INC.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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L-3753

Dear Andy and Kevin:

RE: COPS #9, "The Big Krush."

I thought it was just a little too easy for Rock Krusher to break into the Robo-Troops factory, but I suppose that is why Empire City needs COPS. I know if *my* security had been so quickly breached *I'd* be thankful for back-up. Perhaps someone with regards to the factory has learned his lesson by now?

As usual, the aforementioned stars of this magazine did a good job. It was nice seeing Sgt. Mace in a leading role. He comes on like gangbusters but, in the end, you know he has a heart of gold. Which can be said for all the unit, actually.

Particularly amusing, to me, was Longarm's corral of the would-be bank robbers. I'm sure there was an "easier" way to get the job done, but, when you're not given much time to think, first reactions have to do. It worked, and O'Malley didn't seem *too* busted up.

Doug and Pat turned in another fine effort. Keep up the good work, okay?

We'll see ya next time.

Roger D. Case
1199 Waterfront Dr. #202
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Thanks, Rog. Remember Krusher had landed pretty close to the factory as it was. And there's no way an ordinary guard is going to deal with a madman with a jackhammer. Yep, that's why COPS are there: to handle what the ordinary cops can't. Longarm's dedication did keep him going. As with all of the COPS, they'll go to any length to bring baddies to justice. Hearts of gold? Golden justice.

• • • • •

Yo, Kev!

Re: COPS #9 and Peter Guerin's good letter—now compare the immortal Chester Gould's "Dick Tracy" to your excellent 'zine! As a younger reader I eagerly awaited the (color) Sunday funnies and the near-future, continuing crimestopping adventures of that law 'n' order hero! Lotsa similarities: think about them! Now, as a "mature reader," I spurn anti-code offal ostensibly "aimed my way," and am quite partial to COPS—commercials and all! Keep up the glorious traditions that made DC number one!

Paul Gruendler
Rising Faun, GA

We do think our COPS stories work on two levels of both being plain fun for younger and older readers. That's just the tone Doug Moench is going for. Dick Tracy has always worked that way, too. Kind of tongue-in-cheek fun all around.

• • • • •

Dear Law Enforcers,

First, to answer Kash Hefley's question: the cop in question is named Powderkeg, and works for Empire City's Police Department's Bomb Disposal Unit. Yes, the crook is Hyena, who works with Bullet and Louis the Plumber.

Anyway, last night I showed my last letter to my mother and brother. They thought I was out of my gourd when I compared COPS to several other TV police dramas, and thought I was a prime candidate for Bellevue for saying that COPS was better than "Miami Vice." Hey, everybody knows the "The Flintstones" borrowed a lot from "The Honeymooners," and no one calls whoever says that nuts. I guess there are still some Neanderthals out there who don't realize that it's OK now for adults to read comic books and watch cartoons. (I'm 20 years old.) I suggest that anyone who still has doubts that comic books are all grown up pick up THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS and read it. Besides, when there's a crime committed in the real world, you don't hear an MTV rock video soundtrack playing an accompaniment to it, do you? If I want rock videos, I would watch MTV like any other Joe. Well, I don't have cable, but I've seen "Miami Vice," and that show really sucks!

I say COPS RULES! And "Miami Vice" rots! Case closed.

Peter Guerin
417 Cherry Avenue
West Sayville, NY 11796

The "Miami Vice" episodes with Sheena Easton were pretty good. You mean that wasn't a Billy Idol song playing behind the scene of a drug bust on the 6 o'clock news the other night? You're right, you're right. The only one we know who has cable is Buzzbomb. What do you mean it's okay NOW to read comics and watch cartoons? It's always been cool. And let's not forget about WATCHMEN, BLACK ORCHID, and many other DC titles that are focused more to an older audience.

• • • • •

To COPS,

I have been reading your comic from issue #4. I have all the COPS figures and vehicles except Longarm and Turbo Tutone in the Crooks Roadster. My favorites are Sgt. Mace and Buttons McBoomboom. You have made one of the most enjoyable comics.

What is the difference between DC and Marvel?

Is Bulletproof bulletproof in the head? Is there any way to kill Bulletproof?

Since Blitz and Buttons are part cyborg, are they bulletproof, too? How did Buttons become a cyborg?

Andrew Wozniak
50-09 Francis Lewis Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11364

The difference between DC and Marvel is about three miles. Actually, we have different heroes and a different way of handling them. You'll find out a lot more about the bulletproofness (?) of both Buttons and Vess next issue. Buttons got the double guns in his chest by swallowing them. Actually, Buttons was injured in the same explosion that was meant to kill Vess. They were both turned part cyborg, but Vess chose the path of good while Buttons chose the path of meanness.

• • • • •

Dear COPS,

I would like to congratulate you on your fine artwork and storylines in your fantastic comic book! I have been a loyal fan of the TV show for quite a while.

My favorite characters are Bowser and Blitz, Sundown, Buttons McBoomboom, and Dr. Badvibes. I don't like Bulletproof too much. He reminds me of an older Michael Jackson (looks-wise, anyway).

When I first saw your comic in the stores I couldn't believe what I saw. It had been on my mind to write to some companies and convince them that they should start a COPS comic book. You beat me to it, however, and I'm glad you did! It was at issue nine that I made my discovery. I now have all of them to date. I like numbers five and ten the best. I did find a goof-up, though. In issue number 8, page 11, panels 1 and 3, Turbo was holding his jaw and there were a few stars around his head. Did someone hit him or what? I didn't see any indication of his getting hit, so what happened?

I also have a few questions. They might be quite out of the ordinary, so bear with me.

1) Exactly what percentage cyborg is Bulletproof Vess and Buttons McBoomboom? And for that matter, how can those two possibly take a bath?

2) Does Blitz eat anything? I heard

Bowser mention that Blitz is housebroken, so I just wondered what he eats.

3) With that plexiglass dome on his head, how can Badvibes possibly wash his hair?

4) Are you ever going to run another two-parter like the Rogue Cop? That story was awesome and the T.R.A.M.-P.L.U.R. was pretty neat. I also liked the name Paxton Dern. That was pretty clever.

Well, all in all, I think you guys got a good thing going. Don't give it up! Keep up the great art and stories.

Tracy Sunagal
Cleveland, OH

P.S. Concerning Dr. Badvibes, since the good guys don't want him and the bad guys threw him out, can I have him? I think he's cute!

Would you believe Turbo had a bad tooth? Would you believe a run-in with Mainframe? He scratched his sideburns too hard? Whatever, he ain't talkin'. Now, to answer your questions (which aren't that out of the ordinary, as is evident with the previous letter):

1) The percentage Vess is cyborg is classified information, and Buttons isn't telling, either. Neither wants it known what their weak spots are, for obvious reasons. Again, see next issue for an exciting confrontation. They bathe at the car wash; 2) Blitz eats batteries, transistors, and drinks 10-40W oil; 3) Badvibes's plexiglass dome is waterproof; 4) No two-parters planned in the foreseeable future. And as you can see, Big Boss has taken Badvibes back. Sorry, Tracy. But Buzzbomb is available.

* * * * *

Dear COPS,

I have to congratulate you on the seeming success of your comic. I was in Charleston, South Carolina, visiting my cousin, who had been in an accident and was hospitalized. I went to the gift shop and I was looking for a comic to cheer me up. I came across COPS issue #3. I was amazed at not only the believable characters, but also the impressive storyline. Since that time I have not missed an issue. I can hardly wait after I finish one issue until the next one comes out. I am looking forward to what you guys have planned for Dr. "Goodvibes" in the upcoming issue #10. Thanks again for developing such a great piece of work and please keep it up.

Theo Ward
351 E. Franklin Street
Huntington, IN 46750

We hope your cousin is feeling much better and that you shared your COPS experience with him or her. COPS is as good as a Get Well card when it comes to making people feel better. In fact, some hospitals are thinking about making COPS mandatory prescriptions for all patients.

* * * * *

Dear COPS,

Your comic is one of the best DCs on the market! The artwork is great, and the stories fantastic. But I have a few questions.

1) On the TV show, Mace was considering marrying Nightshade, even though they were opposites. Maybe you already dealt with this storyline, I don't know. I missed the first couple of issues, which I'm planning to order.

2) Could we readers have some more files on the COPS? I heard that you went a little into that in issue #1.

3) I'd like to see more of that shadowy character, Buttons McBoomboom. He always seems to be in the background.

4) Could we see more of the new COPS who made brief appearances on the TV show? Usually, they don't have figures, but were made especially for the show. Maybe you could have some different ones—made specially for the comic.

5) A lot of comics end quickly—not because they're unpopular, but because the toys go out of style or the TV series ends. Please keep this one alive!

I hope you will answer as many of these questions as you can. Oh, yeah—one more thing: can you have a map of the Precinct in a future issue? Or how about a COPS ANNUAL? Oh well, too many questions, too little space. Keep the good work up.

Jeff Kuykendall
1760 Limerick Lane
Brookfield, WI 53005

In order: 1) We haven't handled that storyline yet; 2) We handled just about every COP in issue #2 and every villain in issue #3. As more come along, we'll try to give files; 3) One Buttons McBoomboom spotlight comin' up: next issue; 4) We don't have any information on the new COPS invented for the TV. As far as we know, they were created by the people who make the shew. We've created such unforgettable characters as ... as ... oh, yeah, Paxton Dern; 5) We'll try to keep this comic alive as long as you keep buying it, but if the toyline and cartoon are dropped, we might not have any choice. Luckily, both the toys and the TV show seem to be pretty successful.

Empire City is pretty big; we don't know if we could fit it all. No plans for a COPS ANNUAL this year. And did you say "Limerick Lane"?

Big Boss's nephew is called Berserko.
For him nothing seems to ever work, oh.
He likes Ms. Demeanor,
But he's never seen her
Say "Berserko is really a jerko-o!"

How about submitting your COPS limericks, readers?

* * * * *

NEXT ISSUE: Someone from B.P. Vess's past shows up and wants revenge. Revenge! REVENGE! So, who gets to do the honors? None other than Buttons McBoomboom. It's cyborg vs. cyborg through the back alleys of Empire City, brought to you by Doug Moench and Alan Kupperberg.

They're fighting time in a future crime (is that right? No.). They're cuts of meat from the rib, shoulder, or loin. (No, that's chops. Darn, missed again.) They're COPS!

—KEVIN DOOLEY

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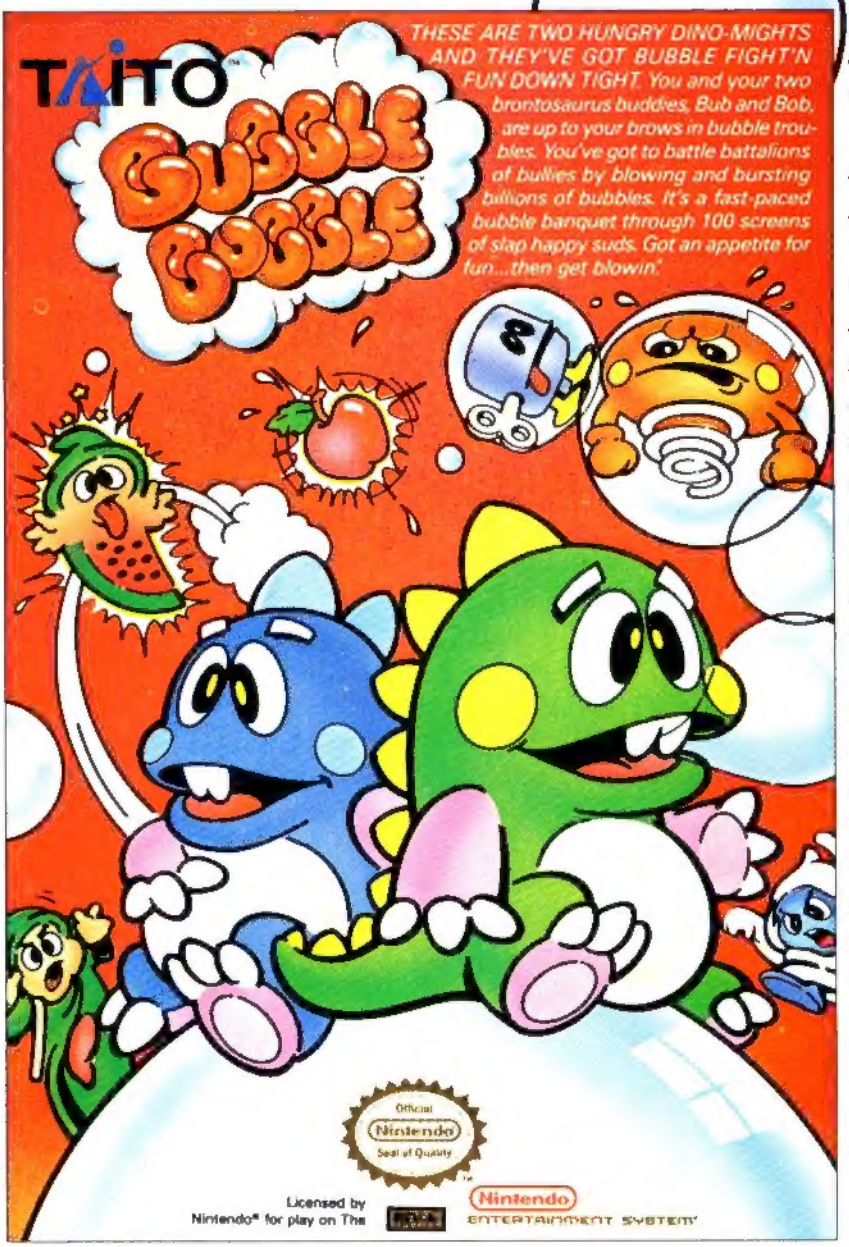
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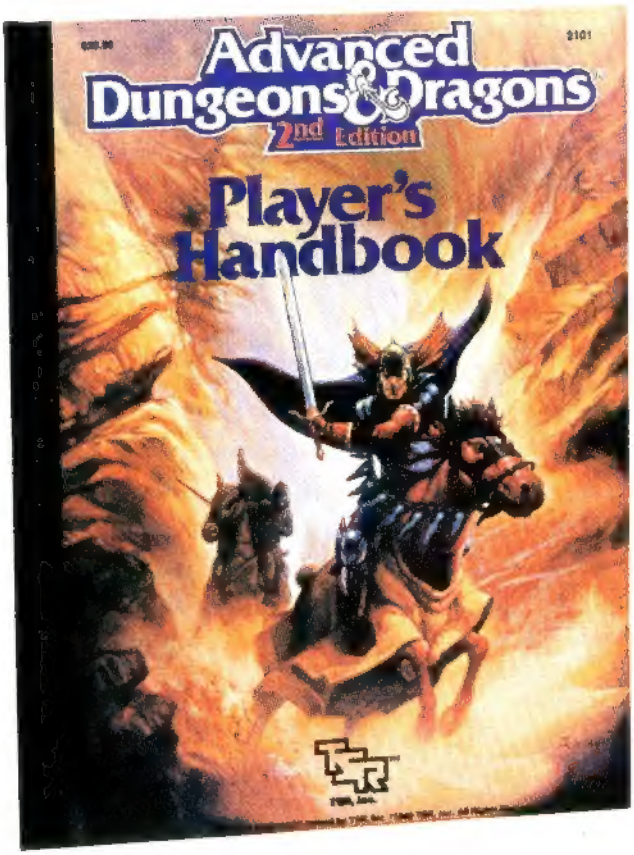

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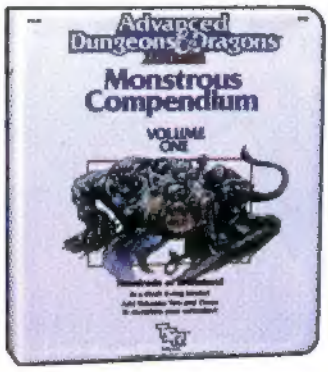

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